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Message Text

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PAGE 01 FREETO 01512 111022Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CA-01 /018 W
----------069051 111806Z /53
R 110940Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7665

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FOR CA/SCS

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: CARR, AFIN
SUBJ: EMERGENCY MEDICAL/DIETARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REF: STATE 102862 AND STATE A-272

1. CIRCUMSTANCES IN SIERRA LEONE IN THE PAST HAVE BEEN SUCH THAT THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE OCCASION FOR THE USE OF THE KIND OF PROGRAM PROVIDED FOR IN THE REFERENCED MESSAGES. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE HAS BEEN ONLY ONE AMERICAN CITIZEN ARRESTED DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS.

2. HOWEVER, IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, AN EVER GROWING NUMBER OF AMERICANS HAVE VISITED WEST AFRICA AND A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THESE VISITORS WERE FROM THE YOUNGER AND MINORITY SEGMENTS OF THE U.S. POPULATION. THEY HAVE TENDED TO BE THE KIND OF VISITOR NOT ACCUSTOMED TO INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, FOREIGN MORES AND UNPREPARED TO COPE WITH PROBLEMS IN THE WEST AFRICAN CONTEXT. THEY ALSO TEND TO BE THE KIND OF TRAVELER WITHOUT READY ACCESS TO EXTRA RESOURCES.

3. AT THE SAME TIME, THE MEDICAL AND DIETARY SERVICES AVAILABLE AT THE LOCAL PRISONS DO NOT APPEAR TO BE OF THE NATURE APPROPRIATE TO SUSTAIN AN AMERICAN INMATE OVER MORE THAN
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PAGE 02 FREETO 01512 111022Z

THE VERY BRIEFEST PERIOD. THE STANDARD DIET IS WEST AFRICAN, A FARE WHICH MOST AMERICANS FIND DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT ON A DAILY BASIS. MEDICAL SERVICES AVAILABLE TO PRISON AUTHORITIES ARE THOSE PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE A NUMBER OF WESTERN TRAINED PHYSICIANS, STANDARD DIAGNOSTIC AND TEST EQUIPMENT IS GENERALLY NOT AVAILABLE. MOST SIERRA LEONEAN PHYSICIANS ROUTINELY EVACUATE THEIR PATIENTS WHO

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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REQUIRE MORE THAN THE MOST RUDIMENTARY TREATMENT. SPECIALISTS
IN THE MORE COMMON FIELDS ARE NOT GENERALLY AVAILABLE.

4. THUS, IF THE TREND WHICH HAS BROUGHT AN INCREASED NUMBER
OF AMERICAN VISITORS CONTINUES, AND THERE IS LITTLE CHANGE
IN THE DIETARY/MEDICAL RESOURCES PROVIDED BY DETENTION
AUTHORITIES, THE POST ENVISIONS THAT THE EDMA PROGRAM WILL
BECOME AN ESSENTIAL CONSULAR TOOL FOR PROTECTION OF AMERICANS
IN THE SIERALEONEAN CONTEST.

DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.
NORTH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: n/a
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Draft Date: 11 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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